



The Review

The newsletter of the North Loos Residents' Association

Voice of the community



MAY
2019

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Success

After 6 years we have at long last obtained a lease from Maidstone Borough Council for the open space at Richmond Way. It has been 6 years of frustration and anger at how long it takes for any council to make decisions and then implement them. We are extremely grateful to one of our members, Mike Smith who is a property lawyer, for dealing with all the legal procedures. He gave so much time and saved the NLRA a fortune in fees. We now have to register the land at the Land Registry which is a formality although, this can take 2 – 3 months. Our environmental team will soon be seen on the land tidying up and arranging regular grass cutting.



Richmond Way in bloom

Donations

We are very grateful to two of our members who donated a tree outside Boughton Parade shops and also money spent on wildflower seeds for the Greenway. The full stories are elsewhere in the Review but a really big THANK YOU to them

Speed watch

The SMART group of which of course we are a part, have now received permission to use 2 further sites. These are in Boughton Lane and Cripple Street.

You will also read elsewhere in this issue about 20 mph zones NOT speed limits which we are pursuing.

Virgin Media

I am told that the grey boxes in Cripple Street are that colour to reflect heat as this can affect the fibre optic system. So there we are Grey is the colour (not 50 shades)! Just grey.

As a matter of interest, Kelly Communications have now finished the installation. On the survey forms sent out, they received 95% satisfaction with the really helpful staff and 90% approval on the work done and the tidying up.



The NLRA would like to
thank Page & Wells
Loose Office for
sponsoring our Newsletter

Tel: 01622 746273

More Housing

At the moment MBC have put out a call for more housing sites and this closes on 24th May. We attended a meeting at Lenham recently and it appears that Central Government's new formula means Maidstone will have to build thousands more houses in the borough in addition to the existing numbers. We believe there will be an emphasis on building garden villages and you might be aware that large developments of approximately 2,000 houses are being proposed for Detling and Marden. Naturally landowners and developers will be looking to benefit with smaller areas as well. We are keeping our eyes and ears open and talking to all our contacts to see what may affect the NLRA area.

A 229 Corridor Update

There is now a programme for this. Detailed Design by September 2019. Consultation December 2019 – April 2020. Procurement May 2020 – September 2020. Construction October 2020 – March 2021 at a cost of £3.35 million. According to KCC Highways, this project is HIGH RISK due to various constraints.

My comment: "Don't hold your breath"

During the Summer of 2019 there should be an upgrade to signals at the Linton Crossroads junction.

Maidstone Borough Council – Local Plan Refresh

Matters relating to development are always politically contentious, so this article will remain a factual account of the process and does not comment on the appropriateness of the Local Plan Refresh.

In October 2017 the Maidstone Borough Council (MBC) Local Plan was adopted setting the framework for development in the Borough until 2031. The plan included an interim review targeted at April 2021. The Government has now mandated all Councils to review their plans every 5 years, which in Maidstone's case is 2022. MBC are calling this review their Local Plan Refresh and it will look forward to 2037 as a minimum. The current Local Plan will continue to be implemented during this process.

The Government has now standardised the method for calculation of housing need, which reflects the Government's ambition to build 300,000 new homes across the UK each year. MBC have been instructed how to calculate their objectively assessed housing need levels and have been provided with the figures for this calculation. The outcome of this that an increase of 40% in the yearly figure from 880 to 1236 will need to be provided .

The current timetable is for the Refreshed Plan to be adopted by April 2022, which calls for a truncated programme to meet this deadline.

MBC have already issued their Statement of Community Consultation, detailing how they will consult during this process. In March MBC issued their Call for Sites which is an open request for information about land and sites which could potentially be developed in the future and the deadline for submission is 24th May 2019. Each of the nominated sites will be subject to a Cumulative Impact Test on Sustainability to assess their appropriateness. The criteria for this assessment have been published by MBC.

Consultation on these proposed sites (known as Regulation 18 consultation) will occur February 2020, when members of the public will get their first opportunity to comment on the proposed allocations. This will be followed by a formal consultation on the Refreshed Local Plan in Oct – Dec 2020, which will have taken on board the comments made during the previous consultation. Finally, the Plan will be subject to a formal Independent Review by an Inspector in 2021, prior to Adoption in spring 2022.

Copies of all the documents referred too can be viewed on the MBC website.

David Southgate - NLRA Planning Committee member

What a (lot of) Waste

At the beginning of the year Sean Carter proposed that 'litter' was to be one of the main problems we would tackle – and with good reason.

We have just completed the third of our Litter Picks to coincide with the Great British Spring Clean and gave special attention to the area inside the burial ground which adjoins the main pathway alongside our Ancient Woodland. In response to our request for help a lot of new volunteers turned up - which obviously contributed to our 'productivity' but it really highlighted what a huge problem litter has become. Just consider these figures.

Between the first and the last Litter Pick, seventeen days elapsed – we've done three so far with another three planned for later in the year. If we did three Litter Picks every seventeen days we would do twenty in a year. From three different areas of North Loose but nothing like the whole area, we collected seventy (70) large bags of rubbish. These are large bags – you would just about get two into a 'wheelie bin'. That means, if we did **twenty Litter Picks a year we would collect something like one thousand four hundred bags of rubbish or enough to fill about seven hundred wheelie bins**. And to repeat, that is just in North Loose and not even the whole of our area. Can you imagine what those numbers would be if we Litter Picked all of Maidstone? Then think of all of Kent and then the whole country.

During the most recent Litter Pick we separated plastic rubbish from general litter as one of our residents is making a special study of plastic waste and how it gets into the sea. We collected four bags full of plastic. The arithmetic is simple. Had we done that during each of the three Litter Picks twelve of our seventy bags would have been full of plastic and if we did it twenty times a year we would have something like two hundred and forty bags of non-biodegradable plastic – a material that lasts hundreds and probably thousands of years – just in our small area of North Loose. You have seen 'The Blue Planet', you know what people like Sir David Attenborough and other scientists and biologists say about plastic waste. No one is immune – the eco-system connects the whole world. We can no longer regard litter as a problem that affects 'other people' or 'other countries'. It is affecting every one of us right now. We all need to be aware of the problem and do something about it – every day.

I hope you had a really enjoyable Easter break – did your children/grandchildren (and you!), re-cycle all those marvellous Easter egg boxes?

Alan Moore

MANGRAVET WOODS

If you go down to the woods today you are in for a big surprise.

There are parts of dolls and lots of mats that have been hidden under the ground, there are bits of car and old jam jars and lots of tyres and wheels. They hide away until in the light of day they come to the top, their final stop is a tip many miles away. There are motorbike bits and a pipe for hits (Hubble bubble) bottles of pop, cider and booze and parts of beds if you fancied a snooze, clothing galore and there's even more. Bits of sinks and bits of old taps, saucepans and bottles lodged in a tree. There are food tins and bricks and a trampoline for kicks together with bags of poo.

You would never believe what comes to light when they fight the good fight and clear up this beautiful wood. So thanks to you all for the good that you do and the junk that you spirit away. One day perhaps you will be able say, that this treasure we found was the best find of all today.





GO GREEN GO WILD OR GET WILD GO GREEN

Last year residents of Sevington Park had been watching the grassed entrance to the road turn from a neat green space into an overgrown mess full of bindweed and cow parsley. After many years of grass cutting by the Council they had decided to refuse to cut it anymore and we knew it would turn into an eyesore getting worse and worse.

We decided that enough was enough. A meeting was held with as many residents who could attend and a plan of action was drawn up. A large work party

was gathered one morning in December and the area was cleared and returned to a neat tidy space. Ivy has been cleared a small poorly tree was removed with insect homes and a bug house created by enterprising residents. We plan to keep the grass cut, plant bulbs and create a small wild flower area. We know this will be an on-going job in the future and down to residents but it looks so much better and has created a sense of community by getting people together on occasional work parties, giving us a chance to chat to neighbours we would normally only pass in the car. To add to the attractiveness of the site and encourage the butterflies and bees the NLRA has kindly donated some wild flower seeds and a member is giving us some snowdrops to plant alongside the primroses that are already growing on site. **Joan**

DONATION

Betty Free from Sheppey Road recently died at the age of 91. One of her enjoyments was to walk to the Greenway and look across the fields whilst admiring the flowers on the Greenway. She was able to do this until shortly before she passed away. Her daughter Valerie remembered this and so had a collection at the funeral. The NLRA has benefitted and has now used the money collected to purchase a large selection of wildflower seeds to be used on the Greenway. We are sure Betty would have appreciated this.





Isn't it nice to see the sun, I love lying in the garden and having a snooze but I don't like flies or buzzy things and I have to scoot inside away from them. My mum was telling me that on one of her holidays she stayed in a cottage in the country. On arrival she found it was not far away from a pig farm and depending on the direction of the wind, it was very smelly. On entering the cottage she was confronted with many fly papers hung from the ceiling. They looked horrible and she removed them only to discover she had to go and buy some more to replace them.

Whilst staying at the cottage she had to cover all the food and cutlery laid out on the table to stop the flies alighting. YUK!! If my mum takes me anywhere like that I would have to live in box. My mum says that is highly unlikely as my dad hates flies too!

Freddie



DONATION

My husband Peter and I moved to North Loose nearly 40 years ago. We originally lived on the main Loose Road. Most days he would walk down to Luckys Paper shop (even after Sainsburys opened) and buy his Daily Mail which he enjoyed very much especially the puzzles. Four years ago he was diagnosed with Mesothelioma which he inherited from time he worked at Aylesford Paper Mills. Although we knew this would be terminal it was a great shock when he went into hospital in August and never came home again.

When I saw the tree had been struck down near Luckys in a recent storm I thought it would be an ideal place to plant a tree in his memory and am most grateful to North Loose Residents Association for allowing me to do this. I shall look forward to seeing it hopefully thrive in the coming years.

Val Sime

RUMWOODS

What a lovely day. This year the weather was better for our 20% discount day at Rumwoods approx. 40 members arrived for their free coffee and biscuits and a friendly chat. It was a good opportunity to pay their membership and try to win the £10 plant voucher donated by Rumwoods. The competition was too hard for some people but a bit of fun to add to the day. The winning voucher went to Rob Herrin of Angelsey Avenue. Being a keen gardener I was tempted by their lovely display of well-kept plants and spent Easter Friday improving my garden with the goodies I bought, It was like eating a box of chocolates with no calories. **LOVELY!**

Joan



Competition names

LATEVARA – NAPIAEO - DAYSEXIEOY - RICEVONA -
CAHIUF - LEBLOWERFL - CAUSTC

NOLIAGAM - ZAAAEL - MEDINPHLUI - SUBCASOI - AIHTYSROF - OHRODNEDNROD
SUSSNARIC - NARUNESISIV.

ANSWERS ON PAGE 8

Diary of events for 2019

Saturday 4th May	Boundary Walk	2.p.m. YMCA return for refreshments
Saturday 18th May	A.G.M.	10a.m. Loose Primary School
Saturday 22 June	Meet and Greet	10.a.m. Boughton Parade
Saturday 7th September	Richmond Way	To be advised
Saturday 19th October	Quiz evening	7.30p.m.
Tuesday 29th October	Litter Pick	9.30.a.m.
Wednesday 7th November	Litter Pick	9.30.a.m.
Saturday 9th November	Volunteers Lunch	12a.m. -2p.m.
Thursday 14th November	Litter Pick	9.30.a.m.

Did you notice last month's deliberate mistake? See page 8



Our last working party on the Greenway was used to clear the East verge adjoining the Westwood Road entrance and the bank to the South of it. This area has become overgrown with stinging nettles and brambles which were strangling the sapling trees which had been planted on the top of the bank. Several dead saplings and their protective cages were removed along with the remains of two felled trees the brambles and the nettles. Rocks

and pieces of concrete were gathered into a pile for future removal. The intention is to plant some more native trees in the autumn. This location, roughly halfway along the Greenway looks over the fields towards the Loose Valley and Oakwood Park, Barming and would make an ideal site for a park bench seat. If anyone is looking for a memorial for a loved one this spot would be ideal. Flower meadow seed sowing at the South end of the Greenway on the West wide will take place sometime over the next few days.

Anyone wishing to help with any of these projects can contact me on 07840 897141

Richard.

DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE ON PRODUCTION OF CURRENT MEMBERSHIP CARD

Luckys Newsagent Newsagent, Boughton Parade.	Blossom Hill red or white 2 bottles for £10
A range of services are listed on your membership card 01622 743073	
Evans Aerial Systems, Linton Road	5% excluding Sky
Good service 01622 744144	
The Dolly Tub, Boughton Parade	10%
Friendly. Service washes if required 01622 743082	
Boutique Beauty, Loose Road	10%
Speak to Louise for a nice smile 01622 746917	
C.P.M. Plumbing. Sutton Road	10%
Good clean work with professional finish 01622 759999 M. 07766 132392	
MDK Electrical Services, Loose Road	15% off labour charges
01622 203031 M. 07757 944896	
Rumwoods Garden Centre, Sutton Road	10% 20% on special days.
Always helpful with a large range of stock 01622 861477	
A.P.Decorators Loose Road	5% on work up to £1000
01622 749676 M. 07973 525522	10% on work over £1000
Domino's Pizza	** 40% on pizzas, side orders,
Boughton Parade, Loose Road 01622 747900	and desserts (Not ice cream or any drinks.)
	** THIS IS FOR COLLECTION ONLY AND NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR MULTI BUY DEAL
Nicki's Florist, Wheatsheaf Parade	10% when you spend £20.00 on flowers in the shop.
Your friendly local florist since 1993 01622 685849	(collection only, excludes delivery)
Footsteps Flooring 196 Loose Rd	5% off floor coverings (excludes
01622 757411	underlay, preparation work or labour)
Glowing Fitness (Pilates Classes)	free first class, to all N.L.R.A. Members
Help with back pain- injury re-hab Ask for Vicki 07759833097	

Disclaimer: the NLRA takes no responsibility for any services given by the above

March

No, this is not a holdup at the Y. Centre, it's the North Loose Ends members taking part in a yoga lesson given by Shannon Clark. The gentle yoga exercises were designed to help members keep in shape whatever their age. Judging by the numbers of members attending and the enthusiastic applause given to Shannon afterwards it was a great success.



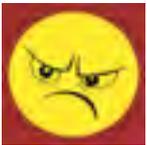
Members rounded off the afternoon by exercising their brains with some word puzzles. I don't know if it was down to the physical exercises sharpening their thinking but the members completed the puzzles with enthusiasm and a great success. **Richard**

April



The April meeting of the North Loose Ends was attended by record numbers who came to hear the very popular Barbara Stevens talk on the subject of The Trials and Tribulations of Public Speaking. She did not disappoint her audience who were kept laughing throughout her speech which lasted in excess one an hour. If, as they say, laughter is the best medicine, then we all left the meeting in better health. We will most certainly book her again.

Our next meeting is at the Y Centre on Wednesday, 14th May when we will all participate in our version of the Grand National. See you there. **Richard**



Last Spring, vandals damaged the trees in Richmond Way green space. They hacked off the bark at the base of the trees to a height of 2-3 ft and also some of the bark higher up.

These trees are flowering cherries and were purchased some years ago by our then Councillor, Ian Chittenden, from his budget (in the days when Councillors had budgets to spend in their areas).

We were told the trees would not survive without their bark, but we did some research and purchased specialist grafting tape which looks very much like cling film. We had to get this online and wait a few weeks for it to arrive as it came from abroad and we did wonder, with the hot weather at the time, whether we would be too late with our first aid. Nevertheless, the tape duly arrived and was wrapped around the trees where the bark had been removed. The idea was that this tape would replace the bark while the tree healed, and more importantly ensure that water from the roots could be used by the whole tree.

We are pleased to report that the trees are once again in bloom, and hopefully have recovered from their assault. Let's hope that the mindless vandals leave them alone this year.



I was talking to a car designer who's crossed a Toyota with Quasimodo and come up with the Hatchback of Notre Dame. P.S. was he still hiding in the roof!!!

FOR SALE :- ONE PINE STAIR RAIL ALMOST NEW DONATION TO NLRA 744291